

61. (Thrice Amended) A method of detecting antibodies to a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in a human sample comprising:

a) providing a solid support having bound thereto a synthetic polypeptide comprising an envelope *env* antigen comprising an immunogenic amino acid sequence of the *env* domain of HIV, wherein said antigen is a synthetic polypeptide [is prepared by chemical synthesis].

b) contacting said solid support with said human sample to provide a sample-contacted support;

c) washing said sample-contacted support to provide a washed support;
and

d) determining whether human antibodies are bound to said washed support.

66. (Thrice Amended) An article of manufacture adapted for use in an immunoassay for antibodies to a [an] human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) comprising a solid support having bound thereto a synthetic polypeptide comprising at least a portion of an envelope (*env*) antigen comprising an immunogenic amino acid sequence of the *env* domain of said HIV, wherein said antigen is a synthetic polypeptide [is prepared by chemical synthesis].

Please add the following claim:

67. A polypeptide comprising an immunogenic synthetic polypeptide having an immunogenic amino acid sequence from the *env* domain of a human immunodeficiency virus.